## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1764
Examiner: UNKNOWN
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
50 Fremont Street 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-2230 Customer No.: 27271

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

l hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents, Washington D.C. 20231-9999

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith information of which applicants are aware, which applicants believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

11/01/01

This Information Disclosure Statement:

- (a) [] accompanies the new patent application transmittal submitted herewith. 37 CFR § 1.97(a).
- (b) [] is filed within three months after the filing date of the application or within three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.491.
- (c) [X] as far as is known to the undersigned, is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (d) [] is filed after the first office action and more than three months after the application's filing date or PCT national stage date of entry filing but, as far as is known to the undersigned, prior to the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) or a certification as specified in 37 CFR § 1.97(e), as checked below.

(e) [] is filed after the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurred first, and is accompanied by the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(i)(1) and a certification as specified in 37 CFR § 1.97(e), as checked below. This document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.

[If either of boxes (d) or (e) are checked above, the following "certification" under 37 CFR § 1.97(e) may need to be completed.] The undersigned certifies that:

- (f) [] Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- (g) [] No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

A concise explanation of relevance of the described above and attached information

- (k) [x] not given for items
- (l) [] given for each listed item
- (m) [] given for only non-English language listed item(s) [Required]
- (n) [] is in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report [copy attached] from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references

While the information disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that the information referred to is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.98 and MPEP § 609 and

is:

the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above-described and attached information.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 03-3975 for any fees required in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. A duplicate copy of this Notice is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Dated: ///// 0 )

Tanuja V. Garde Reg. No. 44,697

Attorney for Applicants

Atty. Docket No: 020072-0278319